

Officers Mike Ortega, Joe Botti, Phil Alvarado, Juan Silva, and Eddie Antommarchi for their heroic actions and sense of duty during one of America's most difficult times. Their dedicated service is a shining example of the quality of character of America's best citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTHA ROMER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Martha Romer, a dedicated public servant from Grand Junction, Colorado. I personally know Martha well, and when she has not been busy working on her farm, she dedicates her time to local government organizations. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to recognize Martha's efforts in her community.

Martha grew up in Memphis, Tennessee and attended Southwestern College where she participated in the local USO during World War II. After the war, she married and moved to Colorado. Martha became active in the political system, hosting caucuses, campaigning, and volunteering as an election judge. Outside her volunteer work, she managed a hog farm with several breeds that were shown throughout the Midwest and garnered numerous awards. Martha also was the chairperson of three state pork associations and collaborated with Colorado State University to develop pork research. Since moving to Mesa County in 1974, Martha has continued to volunteer in the local political process, serving as a precinct committeewoman, and a district captain.

Mr. Speaker, Martha Romer is a warm and genuine individual who has dedicated herself to bettering her Grand Junction community for many years. It is a privilege to stand here before this body and recognize the efforts of such a selfless and benevolent woman. Thanks for all your hard work Martha, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

PROVO RIVER PROJECT TRANSFER ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3391.

Mr. Speaker, due to pressing family matters, I was unable to be present on the floor while this bill was being considered. I want to go on record strongly supporting this bill and want to thank the House for unanimously supporting this legislation.

H.R. 3391 authorizes the title transfer of certain features of the Provo River Project—including the Provo Reservoir Canal, as well as the Salt Lake Aqueduct and certain land in Pleasant Grove, Utah, from the Bureau of Reclamation to non-federal ownership.

For the past 60 years the Provo River Water Users Association has operated the Provo Reservoir Canal, also known as the Murdock

Canal. As long as the title remains in the name of the federal government, the water users association and local communities who use the water are unable to obtain the tax-exempt financing necessary to properly improve and manage the canal. Passage of this title transfer will now allow that to happen.

There are additional benefits to this legislation. For example, significant water efficiencies will result from title transfer. Approximately 8 percent of the water is lost each year to evaporation and seepage since the canal is not enclosed. Transferring ownership will allow it to be enclosed. There are environmental benefits as well—for instance, some of the saved water will be made available to meet the needs of the endangered June sucker. Further, covering the canal will also allow for the development of recreational trails that can be used for hiking and cycling.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you and my other colleagues for supporting this important piece of legislation.

HONORING 2004 PERSON OF VISION
"SHRUB" KEMPNER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Harris L. "Shrub" Kempner of Galveston, Texas. Shrub is the 2004 Person of Vision chosen by Prevent Blindness Texas and will be honored Tuesday, October 12 in Galveston.

Shrub is President and Portfolio Manager of Kempner Capital Management and a Trustee of Kempner Trust Association. He has given his time in service for community boards including the American Jewish Committee, UTMB's Development Board, Galveston County Economic Development Alliance, Galveston Economic Development Alliance, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at UT and the City's Finance Committee.

Shrub is a graduate of Harvard and Stanford. He is a husband and father of two sons. He is the former director of Balmorhea Rances, the Imperial Sugar Company, the United States National Bank, the Frost Bank and Cullen-Frost Bankers, Inc.

Prevent Blindness Texas has chosen to honor someone who has served the Ninth District with distinction and continuing generosity. In announcing his award, Prevent Blindness said:

"We feel Shrub epitomizes a true person of vision. His clear perspective and farsightedness have made a difference in the life of so many. He has truly made a lifelong allegiance to improving and enhancing the quality of life for others and, his devoted friendship and extraordinary dedication deserve recognition."

Mr. Speaker, I want to echo those sentiments and congratulate Shrub Kempner on adding this honor to so many he has received from community organizations in the Ninth District of Texas.

CRIMINAL VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to the wave of criminal violence, much of it targeting women and children, now engulfing America's neighbors in Central America. In Guatemala, human rights organizations have recorded an appalling 16,788 violent crimes between January and June of this year and report that one woman is murdered every day in a country smaller than the state of Tennessee. Unfortunately, violence is hardly a recent development in Guatemala, where citizens and leaders continue to grapple with a legacy of fifty years of political violence and humanitarian atrocities during the Cold War era that claimed more than 200,000 innocent lives.

Sadly, Guatemala's recently elected President Oscar Berger has been able to do little to curb the violent crime threatening his people or to punish those responsible for past human rights violations. Ironically, Berger has had to rely upon those very human rights violators still serving in the police and military to combat the current wave of violent crime. The frustration of the Guatemalan people with the ineffectiveness of their new leader in addressing the situation was painfully evident in the massive demonstrations in Guatemala City last August to protest the growing tide of criminal violence. The violence now plaguing Guatemala and other Central American countries should be of great interest to this congress because, as law and order deteriorate in the region, many Central Americans, out of desperation, will seek refuge abroad, with many immigrating illegally to the United States.

The following research memorandum about the criminal violence which plagues Guatemala was authored by Eleanor Thomas, a British research associate at the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs, an independent, non-profit, non partisan, tax-exempt research and information organization founded in 1975. It has been described on the Senate floor as being "one of the nation's most respected bodies of scholars and policy makers."

GUATEMALANS SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE

On August 13, over 12,000 people took to the streets of Guatemala City to protest the horrific wave of violent crime currently engulfing the country. The march was organized by the Human Rights Protector's Office (PDH) and supported by 560 of the country's civil associations. PDH Director, Dr. Sergio Morales, said in an interview with COHA that the main purpose of the march was to draw attention to the "plight of women and children" who have been the most severely affected by the violence. The march in Guatemala built upon similar demonstrations in Argentina, where 130,000 people took to the streets in April to petition Congress for stiffer penalties against criminals. Mexico City also witnessed at least 300,000 people march through the capital protesting the high levels of violent crime and kidnapping that have plagued the country in recent months. The overriding message to come out of the march in Guatemala is that newly-elected President Oscar Berger must take bigger steps to tackle the endemic problem of violence that could swamp the country's most vital institutions if redress is not achieved.

SKYROCKETING LEVELS OF VIOLENT CRIME

Violent crime rates in Guatemala have risen to astronomical levels. According to the PDH, there have been 16,788 incidents of violence between January and June of this year, 15 percent more than the 14,606 cases recorded during the same period last year. Of this total, 1,662 people have been shot, 254 have been stabbed and 108 murdered with blunt instruments; there were also 43 strangulations and five lynchings. While an international outcry was mounted over the infamous murders of 300 women in the last decade in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, little attention is paid to the fact that one woman is murdered every day in Guatemala.

To strike a sardonic note, in the same month that the PDH announced these hideous statistics, Guatemala celebrated the 50th anniversary of the CIA-sponsored invasion that ousted democratically-elected Jacobo Arbenz president. This wanton act of intervention on Washington's part plunged Guatemala into a bloody civil war that pitched government forces against guerrilla commandos, resulting in the brutal murders and disappearances of more than 200,000 people over the decades. The impact of the war was so extensive that it militarized every aspect of society. Despite the arrival of a nominal peace agreement in 1996 with the UN-peace accords, the country has struggled to deal with its oppressive violence. Alfonso Portillo (2000-04), the first to be elected president after the peace accords, paid little better than lip service to the accords while allowing impunity to reign and endemic corruption to flourish, especially when it came to the special treatment he afforded the country's most notorious human rights violator, the infamous General Rios Montt.

NEW PRESIDENT, BUT NO NEW SOLUTIONS

When President Berger took office on January 14, a new opportunity for peace and reconciliation seemed to present itself. During his election campaign, Berger portrayed himself as a man firmly committed to democratizing Guatemala. He pledged to fight crime, corruption and poverty and to apply the still dormant provisions of the peace accord. However, since taking office, his policies have been somewhat less than coherent.

The cornerstone of his reforms has been a commitment to implementing the international community's recommendations; especially those aimed at reducing the size of the military, the institution that was responsible for many of the worst human rights atrocities during the country's 36-year-long civil war. Although Berger was seen as substantially reducing the military from 27,000 to 15,500 active members as well as spearheading a campaign to close 13 of the country's 60 military bases, these statistics are somewhat misleading. While his moves to demilitarize the country generated immediate praise from the international community, Marvin Perez of the Rigoberta Menchu Foundation asserted that more than 6,000 of these soldiers never actually existed. They were "ghost soldiers," the result of creative auditing by the previous administration to siphon money away from the government for alleged salaries and food parcels for senior personnel. Moreover, of the remaining 5,663 soldiers who agreed to take early retirement, 99 percent were infantry recruits. This means that the high-ranking members of the officer corps—those who were subsequently found responsible for 93 percent of the atrocities committed during the civil war—are likely to still be on active duty.

UNSUCCESSFUL PLAN OF ATTACK

Berger's latest plan to stop the wave of violence has been to triple the number of soldiers and police officers on joint patrol in

danger zones termed "red areas." Yet, the plan only makes it more likely that those who are now patrolling Guatemala's streets are the same military personnel who raped, tortured and murdered some 200,000 people during the civil war.

At a recent meeting in Washington, Vice President Eduardo Stein told COHA that the reason violent crime has reached a "level never seen before was because organized crime was reacting very violently against the reforms the government has enacted." Yet placing the blame on organized crime is too simplistic an answer to a complex question. Senior officials in the army and police force stand accused not only of being involved in this crime network, but of actually orchestrating criminal activities. If the government intends to blame today's increasing violence in Guatemalan society on shadowy networks of crime cartels, it must be willing to accept the involvement of its own functionaries in the country's burgeoning law and order calamity. Guatemala's historic tradition of violence will not be solved by simply increasing the presence of security forces on the streets. The problems are rooted too deeply in Guatemalan society for such superficial measures alone to be truly effective.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Berger is clearly vulnerable in the eyes of the Guatemalan population. His public approval rating has slipped from 83 percent (the level recorded at the time of his inauguration) to 48 percent according to the latest CID-Gallup poll published in *El Periódico*. This is further compounded by the significant protest of thousands of anti-government marchers—it is clear that Berger must take more assertive action if he wants to retain the populace's backing.

If the president wants to combat the situation, he must create an environment where every Guatemalan is equal in the eyes of the law. He needs to purge the military of not simply infantry soldiers, but also of those officers of superior rank who, as junior officers, planned and carried out unspeakable atrocities.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA ON THEIR RECENT ELECTIONS

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, on September 20, 2004, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono won a decisive victory in the final round of the first direct presidential election in the history of the Republic of Indonesia. However, the election was an even greater victory for the people of Indonesia in their remarkable transition to democracy.

This has been a pivotal year for democratic institutions in Indonesia. Indonesia has conducted not one, but three complex national elections in 2004. They were the largest single-day elections in the world, and involved hundreds of millions of ballots, and more than 500,000 polling stations spread across that vast archipelago. In April, I had the opportunity to visit the Indonesian National Elections Commission in Jakarta, and was impressed by the energy and determination with which its officials were confronting those logistical challenges. By any measure, their efforts were a profound success. Approximately 116 million

people voted in the final round of the presidential election, over 10 million more than voted in the last presidential election in the United States.

The people of Indonesia have effected credible, orderly, and peaceful elections of which they are deservedly proud. The magnitude of this accomplishment becomes apparent when we recall that Indonesia emerged from authoritarianism only six years ago, during an extended period of acute economic and social turmoil.

Other observers have correctly cited Indonesia as proof that Islam and democracy can coexist, but it is more than that. Civil Islam in Indonesia has not been merely passive or coincidental with democratization, it has been a catalyst. We understand and appreciate the critical role that Islamic civil society has played in promoting democracy in Indonesia. I fully expect that Islamic mass organizations, universities, pesantren, and non-governmental organizations will continue to play an important part in developing the political culture and public expectations necessary to make Indonesia's nascent democratic institutions truly representative.

We have high hopes for the new administration as it begins to address the significant challenges facing Indonesia. We wish them every success in promoting economic growth, peacefully resolving separatist and communal conflicts, improving the implementation of decentralization and regional autonomy, combating terrorism, and ensuring that the institutions that wield public power are fully accountable to the people of Indonesia. In sum, we share the aspiration of the Indonesian people for expanding and deepening the process of reformasi—the reformation of public institutions away from the corruption, collusion, and nepotism that have weakened them in years past.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to President-elect Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Vice President-elect Jusuf Kalla on their recent victory, and to thank President Megawati Sukarnoputri for her leadership and service to her country during the past three years. We look forward to the continuation of the cooperative relationship between our nations, and the steady growth in friendship between our peoples.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am re-introducing legislation that is intended to help solve the shortage of available, affordable child care facilities. In my congressional district in New York City, more than half of all women with pre-school children are in the workforce and the need for child care is enormous. This is not a local problem but one that is national in nature.

The "Children's Development Commission Act" or "Kiddie Mac," will address this problem by authorizing HUD to issue guarantees to lenders who are willing to lend money to build or rehabilitate child care facilities. It also